TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 22, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 17 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 5.7 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 33 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 567.0 billion ton-miles, down 3.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 17 totaled 380,154, down 8.0 percent from last year, but 0.8 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 6.6 percent in the East, 10.2 percent in the South and 7.8 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Although coal loadings were down by 8,732 cars (6.6 percent), they reached the highest level since the week ended September 29, 1984. Also compared with the corresponding week of 1984, grain loadings were off by 11,736 cars (38.2 percent), while modest increases of 4.6 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively, were recorded by loadings of motor vehicles and equipment and crushed stone, gravel and sand. Twelve of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 10 totaled 87,956 trailers and/or containers, virtually the same as the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 32 weeks of the year was 2,710,977 trailers and/or containers, down 2.8 percent from 1984.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/17/85:

	Loadings in Week ended August 17, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	19,019	D	11,736	38.2	D	1,573	7.6
Other farm products	2,372	D	195	7.6	D	287	10.8
Metallic ores	14,356	D	4,677	24.6	I	466	3.4
Coal	123,845	D	8,732	6.6	I	2,850	2.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,667	I	833	6.5	I	480	3.6
Nonmetallic minerals	10,113	D	2,579	20.3	D	1,020	9.2
Grain mill products	10,488	I	184	1.8	I	440	4.4
Food and kindred products	11,185	I	181	1.6	I	339	3.1
Primary forest products	10,697	D	3,097	22.5	I	527	5.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,904	D	330	4.6	I	107	1.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,518	D	883	6.1	I	552	4.3
Chemicals and allied products	23,200	D	2,376	9.3	I	853	3.8
Petroleum products	4,618	I	74	1.6	I	8	0.2
Stone, clay and glass products	10,904	D	381	3.4	D	164	1.5
Coke	4,617	D	497	9.7	D	148	3.1
Metals and products	7,991	D	251	3.0	D	269	3.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,842	I	789	4.6	I	104	0.6
Waste and scrap materials	8,561	D	221	2.5	I	164	2.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,878	D	489	6.6	D	15	0.2
All other carloads	59,227	I	1,101	1.9	D	501	0.8
LCL traffic	152	I	37	32.2	D	1	0.7
Total Cars Loaded	380,154	D	33,245	8.0	I	2,912	0.8
Corresponding week of 1984	413,399						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (33 weeks)	12,295,778	13,021,291	D 5.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
32 Weeks ended August 10	549.6	570.5	D 3.7
Week ended August 17	17.4	18.5	D 5.7
33 weeks cumulative	567.0	589.0	D 3.7

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